



OFFICIAL EMBLEM OF

THE MAYANS

All material, discourses, lectures, illustrations, lessons, scientific dissertations and letters of transmittal appearing under this Official Emblem are protected by copyright. They may not be quoted except by official and written permission of The Mayans. They are not for sale but are prepared for the private use of Members of our Order. The recipient of this manuscript agrees by acceptance to hold it Private as the property of The Mayans to be delivered up to the Order upon demand. All rights in the material appearing beneath this cover are reserved by The Mayans, including the privilege of translation into other languages.

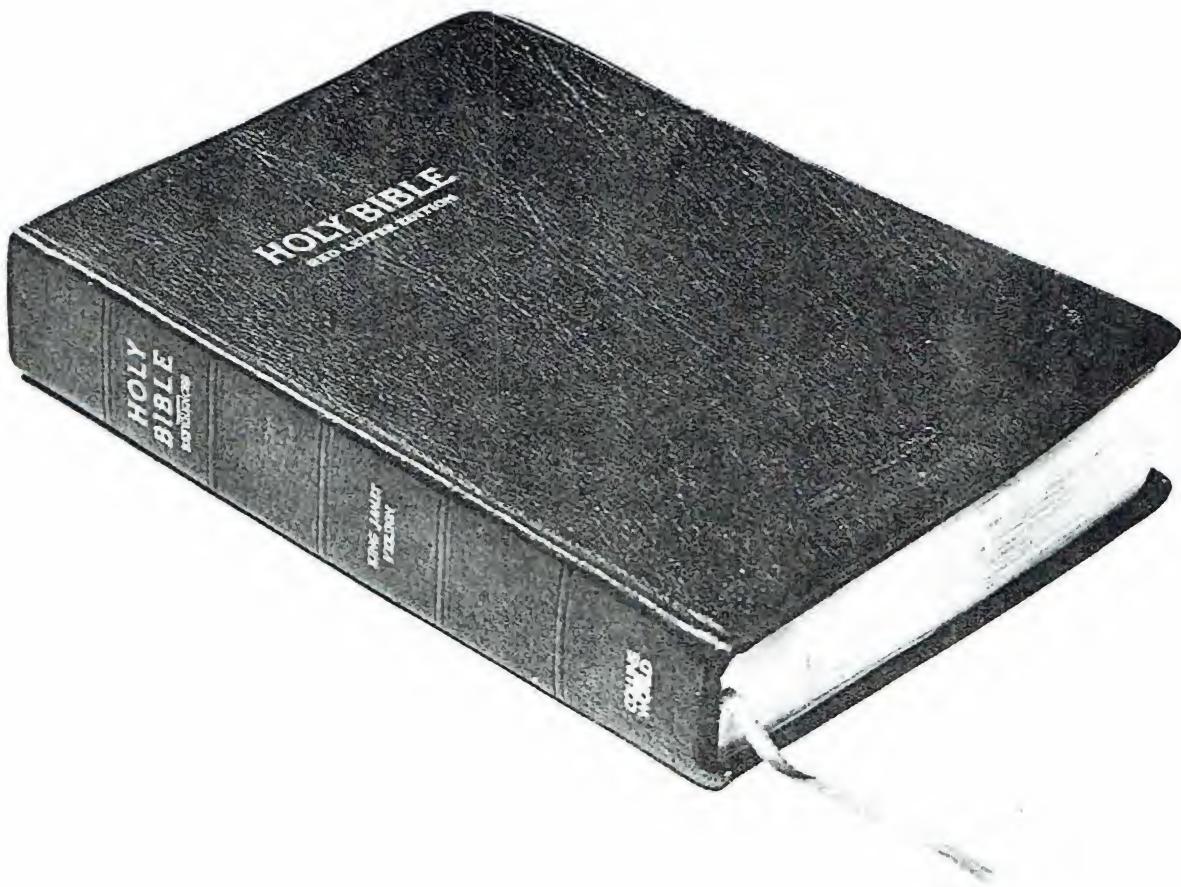
VADE MECUM, VOLVENTIBUS ANNIS

THE MAYANS
SAN ANTONIO,
TEXAS

Degree 8 - 9

Number 190

Copyright 1959 by The Mayans



And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through his name.

John 20: 30 - 31

SEVEN FACETS OF THE BIBLE REVELATION NUMBER 190

A PICTURE OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD AT WORK IN THE WORLD

In Chaos
A Planet Becomes a World
The Action Begins
The Spirit in Our Personal Lives

The Spirit Working in History
The Goal of History
A Few Sidelights
Affirmation

BELOVED CENTURION:

It is always exciting to me to bring you a new series in your studies, and this newest one is no exception, because it takes up that fascinating study of the Bible - never old, always new. Everytime we read it we find something new, some hidden meaning, something that we haven't seen before.

After all, our whole world is based on the Bible and, alas, so few of us really know it as we should. It is the one book that has sold more copies than any other book in the world by many thousands, and continues in this great demand. Most books have their day and become obsolete, but God's Word is like Himself - the same yesterday, today and forever. In it, there is promise of better things to come, and many times you will find the answer to your particular problem if you will study it. In fact, the Bible has the chart for you to steer by to keep you from the bottom of the sea when your problems seem to engulf you. It is a chart to show you where the harbor is and how to reach it without running on rocks or bars.

And then another reason for knowing your Bible is this: - the greatest Christians have times of doubt, it is a human thing; and our Universe is so mysterious that there comes a time in every one's life when they are prone to doubt the existence of a Supreme Being. For this reason, we need to read the Bible daily, keeping its message fresh in our hearts and minds. The best evidence of the Bible being the word of God is to be found between the covers; it proves itself.

YOU need it in order to develop mentally, physically and spiritually.

Another very important reason for you to know your Bible is because, in the world in which we live today, so many things are happening. I am sure many of you think, "Yes, but I am only one person, - what can I do about it?" Well, believe me my Beloved Companion and friend, you will see that these things have been going on for centuries, and always something was done about it. Various groups did something about it.

You, as a Mayan, can be an influence for good by the way you live your life. You never know what your influence might mean to someone else. I once heard a young minister say and I quote, "I could go into a bar and I would not be contaminated in any way, but the harm would come if some young people would see me in that bar. The influence for evil would be very strong and in that way my act of going into a place such as this could have a lasting effect on the lives of those young people who held me, as a minister, in a high place in their thoughts."

You, as a Mayan, can do your bit through spreading the word of love, in endeavoring to combat hate and greed and lust for power. You can preach the gospel of love and spread the message that Mayanry teaches of all good, of strong faith, just as was done 2,000 years ago. Jesus, in His Ministry of Love, made an impression on the world that has lasted all those years.

Yes, we can all do our bit, and as Mayans we should. Many of our members, particularly our Mayan Ministers, do so.

Even though you feel you know your Bible, I want you to regard this series as a very important one; for I, as your leader, feel it will give you a new insight in your present life and the life you are trying to build - not forgetting the lives of those around you, whether they be loved ones or friends.

If you do not have a Bible, or if the one you have has become too old and worn for use, I would suggest that you purchase a new one with the starting of this Series.

Many sizes and types of Bibles are available everywhere, and in several approved versions. Should you have difficulty obtaining one, however, The Mayan Book House will be glad to order for you any type for which you have a personal preference.

As you prepare to take up the following study, resolve to make this one of the most important Series in your study of Mayanry. Determine to make this study a profound influence for good in your life. And now our Prayer:

PRAYER

Help me, my Heavenly Father, to open my mind fully to the larger implications of the Holy Scriptures. Let their meanings lay strong hold upon my life as my mind grasps them, and recognizes them as Thy Word. Amen.



A PICTURE OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD AT WORK IN THE WORLD

PART I - IN CHAOS

PLEASE begin this study by taking your Bible and reading very thoughtfully the first two verses of the First Chapter of Genesis. This will bring you to the threshold of the vast meaning of the Book of Books.

This is what you will read, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

Another rendering would be that the Spirit of God was brooding over the face of the waters. We can tell from what happened then and since that it was a creative brooding, the Spirit of Love caring, hoping, and toiling, to bring order out of chaos.

The philosopher Epicurus one day in his boyhood asked his teacher where

the world came from. "From Chaos", replied the teacher. "But where did Chaos come from?" persisted the boy. That is one of the first questions an inquiring mind asks about anything. It knows that everything has an origin, and may be explained by what that origin is.

No one can rule God out of His universe. No matter what you call the Infinite Spirit, it is still a reality. No matter what theory of creation you believe, it still had to have a Creator. The world came from Chaos, as the above Scripture quotation says, but even Chaos had to be created.

Through a telescope you can see new solar systems like ours being created far out in space. Invisible energy is being transformed by an unseen power into atoms of matter. They are in motion, and in time they will whirl themselves into suns. Masses of matter will be thrown off from them, go into orbit, and begin whirling themselves into planets. Wherever you see one of these great spiral nebulae the material for a new Book of Genesis is taking shape.

These things do not do themselves. An Infinite Worker is busy there. The Spirit of God is moving in the darkness, waste, and void, shaping energy into substance and form on a vast construction job. Such a dwelling was once coaxed into shape for us. We have but to look at it to see that it did not make itself.

Only an Infinite Power can make something out of nothing. The Universal One thinks a pattern. Then His energy - the Spirit of God - works with it till it takes form, keeps working with it till that form is complete, and still keeps on working with it till its destiny is accomplished.

All this will unfold. For now suffice it to say that with all this completed in some six vast and fruitful periods, the stage is ready for the most wonderful drama ever enacted, one in which you and each of us must play a part.

--0--

PART II - A PLANET BECOMES A WORLD

WITH your Bible still open at the First Chapter of Genesis, please read on through the Twenty-sixth Verse. The completed planet now begins to be built into a world where life exists and events take place. Order is emerging, but there are still centuries of work to do. Even to this day the Spirit of God is still shaping raw materials into finished form.

Suppose you should pass a great heap of all kinds of building material with no order about it. Suppose that months later you should pass that way again, and see activity going on. Much of the material is gone, and the walls of a building are rising there. Still again you pass, and where the heap of material laid are lawns and gardens, and in their midst stands a beautiful house. Would you not assume that a creative something has been shaping that chaos of raw material into a finished and orderly structure?

On a larger scale and in a longer time that must be something like what happened in the darkness, waste, and void with which creation began. The raw material is now a planet in a system of planets, with history being made on it.

Now the appearance of the vast orb begins to change. Rudimentary plants begin to appear in the water and on the ground. Life has appeared where all before was inanimate. Gradually, this life builds up into larger forms, because the creative Spirit of God has been at work developing the earth into a world.

These plant forms have many values. They are possible food for still higher forms of life yet to appear. Already they are breathing out oxygen into the air, and when animal life appears they will absorb the poisonous carbon dioxide from its lungs. They are already decorating the face of the earth with grass, leaves, flowers, and trees, beautifying man's home in preparation for his coming. Could things be so well planned without a Creative Mind?

These forms of life that are now emerging, including those of both sea and land, have some kind of rudimentary sense of their own being. They also have power to grow and reproduce themselves. This development has all been miraculous, but there are greater miracles to come. You have heard people wondering why the day of miracles has passed. If you will think of all this and observe what is still growing out of it, you will realize that things grow more miraculous all the time.

We first saw the stage built for the great drama of life. Now we have seen another step completed by the ever-moving Spirit of God. The stage is decorated, and the scenery has been painted and put in place. Even the vast lighting system has been provided, which the sun turns high, the moon turns medium, and the stars turn low. Could all this be without a Creative Power, and could there be a more creative power than Love that keeps, and guides, and builds? Is it not the secret of all progress?

Now we have seen two great stages of the work of the creative Spirit of God in the task of world building. Next we shall see it introducing its climactic life form - Man himself.

--0--

PART III - THE ACTION BEGINS

NOW please read thoughtfully one more verse of the First Chapter of Genesis, the Twenty-seventh. This brings us to the climax of the original stage of creation. The stage for the Drama of Mankind has been built and furnished. It is time for the cast to begin to appear, and it does.

There are two accounts of the creation of man in Genesis. The second is in the next chapter. We have it because various materials and accounts were combined in the total work. The second account relates the story of the creation of man by saying that God formed him out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. A little more detail, as you can see.

This is the actual way of nature, and is true of each one of us. A divine spark of life is planted in a seed so that it takes root and comes up by the nurture of the soil. Sap is drawn up the stem from the ground with mineral elements - dust - dissolved in it. Sunlight is filtered into the sap through the green chlorophyll in stem and leaf. By this process the inorganic minerals are turned

into living, organic, digestible, carbohydrates. It has been said that the greatest of all known miracles is what takes place inside a green leaf.

The plant develops. Animals feed on it and grow. Man feeds on both the plants and the animals, and lives and develops, being formed of the dust of the ground. The first thing a new-born baby does is to get its breath to start the flow of cleansing oxygen into its blood stream. In other words, God forms each of us from the dust of the ground and breathes into our nostrils the breath of life. That is the way the Spirit of God hovers over the dust till it comes alive, and becomes a living soul. It is so now, so it must have been so at the beginning.

With the coming of man things began to happen, for he was made in the image of God - the spiritual image, of course, for God is not flesh but Spirit. Since man is like God, change, action, and development are always taking place. He is restless, idealistic, and creative. He has the power to think, to choose, and to love. These qualities make him Godlike and immortal.

Having emerged, man starts doing things. He labors and tries to learn, but some things he learns get him into trouble. He makes a mistake and finds himself locked out of his garden of innocence; but he has the world in which to discover and achieve, having in himself the capacity for both the best and the worst.

The first scene is over. The cast will grow. There will be heroes, villains, fools, bit players, and bystanders. The Spirit of God has given man life. It now seeks to guide him, keep him out of trouble, soften the consequences when he blunders, and shape his life within and without for harmony and happiness.

It is with man as it is with the earth on which he dwells. No matter by what kind of program he was created; being created, he had a Creator. We may devise any description of the process we please and call it what we will, the question of origin will still be there and if we want to be good thinkers we must face it. Good logic requires that the answer be at least as big as the question, so what answer can there be but God?

--0--

PART IV - THE SPIRIT IN OUR PERSONAL LIVES

EACH generation and each individual discovers anew what the first men soon began to discover, that there is an unseen force working with and within us. It is powerful but beneficent force, like an unseen shepherd driving us here, restraining us there, persuading us yonder, finding pasture, providing shelter; giving direction, purpose, and meaning to our existence. It is the Spirit of God still working with created things and beings to make the original plan take shape and go as was intended.

At times we may see no pattern in what is happening to us and around us, but as time goes on we see it is taking form, like a mosaic being pieced together. Something we thought we wanted may turn out valueless, while something we dislike and fear may prove to be a most valuable element in our lives. Even out of seeming misfortunes and difficulties may come very great good.

When Abraham was journeying from Ur to Canaan to open a new chapter in history he did not know it, but the Spirit of God was taking him there to find the land best adapted for a people that was to be the pioneers of a great faith.

When Joseph brought his father and brothers into Egypt he did not know it, but the Spirit of God was taking them there to multiply and be refined and strengthened later to build a new order in repossessed Canaan.

When Moses fled to Midian and was herding sheep on a mountain slope he did not know it, but the Spirit of God had brought him there to be commissioned to lead his people from bondage back to what was to be the land of their nationality, the workshop of God in history, the birthplace of the prophets and the Saviour.

When the prophets were pleading with their people to find their strength in righteousness and build a good physical heredity for the coming Redeemer, it was the Spirit of God keeping the way open for the Divine Purpose. It managed to accomplish this in spite of Israel's failure, exile, and dispersion.

When Jesus wept over a careless city, prayed in Gethsemane, and died on the cross, that was the Spirit of God brooding over the world, seeking to save it and keep it in the line of march to the day of hope ahead. The Spirit is working today on some new phase of the same task, seeking to get the right forces into action, the right colors on the canvas, the right steps taken toward the doing of God's will. It is so in every age.

As the Spirit of God was working in chaos, in the shaping of sun and planet, in the stirrings of the primordial ooze, in the moulding of the first life forms, so it is working today in our human affairs, bringing the destined pattern of things more into shape in and through the forces of nature and the assertion of the human will.

The moulding of our lives and the world life to mean the most and the best depends on our response and obedience to that leading. As we proceed we shall see more and more how wonderful it is to be a part of a great world purpose.

---0---

PART V - THE SPIRIT WORKING IN HISTORY

AS we read on in the opening pages of the Book of Genesis we see that, the stage having been prepared and the action introduced, the players begin to multiply and enact their roles. The story of the ages has begun.

Not all the history of the world is in the Bible, of course. It takes only one line of action, the religious one. It follows the development of that idea in the life of one people till it spreads to all the nations and unites the world in a great consummation of peace and righteousness to which we shall refer later. It so traces this current through the ages that we may think even of it as not being all told but rather summed up between the first and last covers of the Bible.

We do not read far into these pages till the world life begins to seem a confused tangle, because man begins very early to make mistakes, choose wrong roads,

and follow wrong counsels. As we go on, however, we can see that he never gets wholly lost, but that a pattern begins to form in the progress of mankind just as it did in the patterning of the world itself.

It does not always look so at first. Some of the early predicaments of the race look hopeless, and by Noah's time they have become so much so that the black-board is wiped clean, so to speak, and the lesson starts all over again. In one way or another, however, the race is kept from total destruction.

That is because the Spirit of God that broods constructively over all chaos is now working in the affairs of men, giving a touch here, a restraint there, a warning yonder, an inspiration somewhere else, sometimes succeeding, sometimes having to try again, sometimes having to wait, sometimes having to replace one person with another, but keeping the action going in the right general direction. History is like a bubbling cauldron or a restless sea, that calms down just in time for some purpose to be accomplished, showing that there was a plan.

This seems a good place to mention something that disturbs many beginning Bible readers. It is the number of low ideals, savage conditions, and frightful deeds one encounters in the conquest of Canaan and elsewhere in the earlier parts of the Old Testament. These shocking things are not there because God approved them. They are there to show through what primitive conditions the Spirit of God led the human race up the road to better ways, something it is still doing and will be doing till civilization is much farther advanced than it is even now.

By now you can see that from the beginning there was a divine philosophy of history. It is that the story of man is not merely a confused Babel of strife and discord, but an orderly march toward an ultimate far-off divine event, a righteous condition. We may boast that we have improved conditions today because great thinkers and leaders have risen and done things to make life better. Let us not forget that even they did not come by chance, but that their achievements were part of the guiding work of the Spirit of God always building order out of the chaos in human life. This will become even more apparent in the next section of this lesson wherein we shall discuss the goal of history.

--0--

PART VI - THE GOAL OF HISTORY

We have now gone far enough in this study to raise the question, Whither? If all this weary and often bloody welter and struggle of human hopes, conflicts and endeavors, have a meaning and a goal, what are they? Where does the light finally cut through the darkness, and what does it reveal?

You have already thoughtfully read and considered a few parts of the first two chapters of the Bible. Now please turn past all the summary of the religious history of the race contained in the sixty-six books till you come to the Twenty-first and Twenty-second, the last two chapters of the Book of Revelation. Read thoughtfully the Twenty-first Chapter and the first five verses of the Twenty-second. This is a picture of the goal, the consummation toward which the Spirit of God is always building, and will be till we arrive. Now you know the beginning and the arrival, what the world is coming to.

If you believe the Bible, you have no more uncertainty about the goal of history. We have before us a description of the City of God, a symbolic picture of the new world life for which the Spirit of God prepared in creation and is now working at the level of human action. You can work out the meanings of these symbolic details for yourself, and you will find that they add up to the assurance that it is a situation in which all tears are wiped away. In other words, life has been made so just and right that there are no causes for weeping any more.

Notice that this is not an after-death condition. The grave has nothing to do with it. It is the picture of a new earth, of this world renovated and remodeled. The City of God has come down out of Heaven, and His dwelling place has been established among men, and they are His peoples recognizing Him as their God. That is the climax and goal of the life of mankind. It is a far cry from what life was in the beginning, just as it is a far cry from the darkness, waste, and void of the beginning to the beautiful world of the present.

No one can understand and believe the Bible from this point of view and not be an optimist. The Spirit of God sees to it that though evil is present, it does not win, and though destructive influences seek to prevent the coming of the Kingdom, they do not succeed.

--0--

The years have had their problems, backslidings, and catastrophes; but they have always been temporary. We have stumbled and slipped, but we have always been able to recover our direction and go forward. A comparison of present conditions with those of any part of the past will show that in the large we go forward more than we slip backward. That is God's philosophy of history. It shows us what the final outcome will be. The last lap wins the race, and the goal is good.

--0--

In his infancy, man was innocent because he knew no better. At the climax of history he will be righteous because he does know better. He will have been tested, proved, and seasoned, till he has achieved purpose and character. He will have learned to do right because his purposes and motives are right. Go forward in faith. There may be hard, dark days, but beyond them the sun is shining.

PART VII - A FEW SIDELIGHTS

THE Bible has now shown us man in his place in the scheme of things. It shows us something of what and who we are, so we can make some dependable estimate of how well we are fulfilling the purpose of our being here. Then we can better understand the meaning of existence and how to adapt our lives to it.

Having some idea of God's purpose for us and for the world, we are in a better position to play our parts. Cooperation in that plan speeds the process of its fulfillment. Failure to cooperate creates tardiness and conflict that can be immeasurably costly to us in terms of life's permanent values. That makes the difference both between goodness and badness, and happiness and unhappiness. If one really wants to go the right way and arrive at the right destination, he needs to

be able to see where he is going.

We all learned early that the best way to arrive at a given point is to keep one's eye fixed on that point and to move directly toward it. That is also true of the living of any of our lives, as it also is true in the living of the life of the race. We must do exactly that with the kingdom of heaven of earth, and it must begin with the kingdom of heaven in ourselves.

Having this long-time point of view, and seeing the course of life and history in the large, places us in a position to understand the true nature of some of the things human beings live for. One of them is victory. All through the Bible and all through secular history, we read of wars and rumors of wars because there is imbedded in human nature a longing to win in competition, to achieve victory.

But what is victory? We can see as we look at the Bible and history that true victory is not merely beating someone at something. It is being victorious over whatever harms the human races, and the first step is being victorious over it in ourselves. The Bible says truly that one who rules his own spirit is greater than one who takes a city.

Another thing people strive for is power. Deep-seated in human nature is a love of the ability to control, and men fight to get it and keep it. But of what good is power for its own sake? Consider the divine idea of power as shown in the Bible. God's power is devoted to achieving the greatest and largest good, to delivering the downtrodden and uplifting the weak. That is the power we should seek.

Still another human interest is the desire for freedom. Peoples have fallen into captivity in wars fought to win freedom or destroy it. Some who have fought for freedom and won it have misused it, or taken freedom from others. But true freedom destroys nothing but enslavement. It is freedom to do right, not wrong; to make the best, and not the worst of life.

The course of history as the Bible presents it and as the secular record confirms it is a process of maturing, of coming of age. When our thinking and our desires reach maturity we shall all be in harmony and in agreement, for we shall all see clearly what is true and good. We shall have learned wisdom well enough to live by it. We shall abandon superficiality and destructiveness because we shall have put away childish things.

--0--

AFFIRMATION

I see my place in God's total plan for the human race and therefore His plan for me. I undertake to be a potent factor in the fulfillment of both by keeping in harmony with the divine will.

YOUR CLASS INSTRUCTOR

